



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Managing California's Working Lands

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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION ANNOUNCES \$9.1 MILLION IN CALIFORNIA WATERSHED RESTORATION GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-PROFITS

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Conservation (DOC) will award \$9.1 million in Proposition 84 watershed restoration grants to 41 local organizations and non-profits to improve California's natural resources. The funds will be used to hire watershed coordinators, who organize a variety of local efforts to protect and improve watersheds.

“Ensuring the cleanliness and vitality of watersheds is important to the state's overall environmental well-being,” Department of Conservation Acting Director Derek Chernow said. “Everyone lives in a watershed, and the organizations that received grants do a tremendous amount of work at the grassroots level.”

Generally, watershed coordinators help assess local watersheds -- the area drained by a river or river system -- and bring together local government, landowners and community groups through outreach, education and partnerships in order to better manage and improve the health of the watersheds.

DOC's Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP), with assistance from several agencies, reviewed 116 applications with funding requests totaling nearly \$26 million. A competitive scoring process recommended \$9,140,732 in grants to 41 recipients, including 12 on the North Coast, seven along the Sacramento River, and six on the South Coast.

“Watershed coordinators are professional organizers who help bring to fruition integrated natural resource projects that benefit our most valuable asset, water, and do so in a way that is most suitable to the needs and concerns of their local area,” said Brian Leahy, head of DLRP. “The quantity and quality of the applications we received is evidence of the need for coordination to help meet local and statewide objectives to improve water quality and quantity.”

In 2000, a pilot program issued \$2 million in grants, allowing Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) to hire 30 watershed coordinators around the state. The 30 coordinators were able to generate more than \$9 in new

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WATERSHED COORDINATOR GRANTS ISSUED 2-2-2

watershed money for every program dollar they spent. This money was used to complete additional watershed related projects. The 30 coordinators also established more than 300 new watershed partnership groups. Because of those successes, the program was expanded to include not only RCDs, but also other special districts, nonprofit groups, and local governments around the state.

“We’re really excited that some of these grants are going to areas that have never been served before,” said John Lowrie, head of DLRP’s Watershed Program. “These grants will make a real difference around the state. What watershed coordinators do, ultimately, is to help make a positive change in the way people view and manage natural resources for the long term.”

A list of the organizations that received funding, the cities in which they are located, the main watersheds supported by the grants, the proposed 3-year grant total, and local contact names and phone numbers:

- Alpine Watershed Group, Markleeville, Upper Carson River, \$188,738, Sarah Green, 530-694-2327
- Amargosa Conservancy, Shoshone, Amargosa River, \$159,037, Brian Brown, 760-852-4339
- Arroyo Seco Foundation, Los Angeles, Upper Los Angeles River/Arroyo Seco, \$274,029, Tim Brick, 323-405-7326
- California Land Stewardship Institute, Napa, Russian River, \$149,760, Laurel Marcus, 707-253-1226
- Chowchilla-Red Top Resource Conservation District, Coarsegold, Upper Chowchilla/Upper Fresno, \$237,155, Jack Fry, 559-665-2987
- City of Trinidad, Trinidad, Mad Redwood Watersheds, \$293,910, Rebecca Price-Hall, 707-677-0223
- Desert Mountain RC&D Council, Ridgecrest, Upper Kern and South Fork Kern, \$251,742, Deana Jerdee, 760-446-1974
- East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District, Modesto, Middle San Joaquin/Lower Merced/Lower Stanislaus, \$217,615, Christine Daskam, 209-491-9320
- Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District, Ridgecrest, Indian Wells/Searles Valleys, \$229,688, Jennifer Venola, 760-446-1327
- Friends of Deer Creek, Nevada City, Upper Yuba, \$195,696, Joanne Hild, 530-265-6090
- Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Occidental, Bodega Bay, \$196,544, Noelle Johnson, 707-874-2907

WATERSHED COORDINATOR GRANTS ISSUED 3-3-3

- Gualala River Watershed Council, Gualala, Gualala/Salmon, \$220,720, Kathleen Morgan, 707-884-9166
- Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, Susanville, Honey-Eagle Lakes, \$294,118, Tina Mudd, 775-722-8339
- Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, Eureka, Salt River/Eel River, \$141,198, Curtis Ihle, 707-444-9708 ext 116
- Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, Los Angeles, San Gabriel River, \$294,658, Nancy Steele, 213-229-9945
- Mattole Restoration Council, Petrolia, Mattole, \$286,869, F. Jeremy Wheeler, 707-629-3514
- Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Ukiah, Upper Russian/Navarro, \$228,721, Janet Olave, 707-462-3664
- Mendocino Land Trust, Mendocino, Big River, \$113,845, Michael Miller, 707-962-0470
- Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends, Newport Beach, Newport Bay, \$231,067, Roger Mallett, 949-933-6804
- Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, Ojai, Ventura River, \$277,446, Brian Stark, 805-649-6852
- Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association, Arcata, Redwood Creek, \$165,961, Mitch Farro, 707-839-5664
- Palo Verde Irrigation District, Blythe, Colorado River, \$189,524, Roger Henning, 760-922-3144
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County, Salinas, Carmel River, \$299,377, Paul Robins, 831-424-1036
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, Agoura Hills, Malibu/Topanga, \$155,949, Melina Watts, 818-878-1965
- Sacramento River Watershed Program, Sacramento, Sacramento River, \$246,076, Mary Lee Knecht, 916-549-4017
- Salmon River Restoration Council, Sawyers Bar, Salmon River, \$200,048, Lyra Cressey, 530-462-4665
- San Diego Earthworks, San Diego, Mission Bay/Rose Creek, \$150,000, Chris Klein, 858-272-7423
- Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District, Capitola, Pajaro, \$295,354, Nik Strong-Cvetich, 831-464-2950 ext 11
- Save the Bay, Oakland, San Francisco Bay West, \$200,000, Darcie Collins, 510-452-9261 ext 110

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WATERSHED COORDINATOR GRANTS ISSUED 4-4-4

- Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Yreka, Upper Sacramento/McCloud rivers, \$269,353, Dave Webb, 530-926-2460
- Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Calpine, Little Truckee River, \$167,518, Mike Freschi, 530-251-7189
- Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, Taylorsville, North Fork Feather River, \$239,829, Emily Creely, 530-284-1022
- Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, Santa Rosa, Russian River, \$252,835, Valerie Minton, 707-569-1448
- Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District, Petaluma, North San Pablo Bay, \$298,782, Leandra Swent, 707-794-1242 ext 104
- Tahoe Resource Conservation District, South Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, \$293,096, Eben Swain, 530-543-1501 ext 110
- Tehama County Resource Conservation District, Red Bluff, Cottonwood Creek Headwaters, \$236,749, Randy Cousineau, 530-527-3013 ext 113
- The Watershed Project, Richmond, San Pablo Bay South, \$163,312, Linda Hunter, 510-457-1897.
- Trinity County Resource Conservation District, Weaverville, South Fork Trinity River, \$259,861, Noreen Doyas, 530-623-6004
- Truckee River Watershed Council, Truckee, Truckee River, \$151,680, Lisa Wallace, 530-550-8760
- Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, Three Rivers, Tulare-Buena Vista Lakes, \$300,000, Carole Combs, 559-799-7204
- West Lake Resource Conservation District, Lakeport, Upper Cache Creek, \$122,881, Greg Dills, 707-263-4180

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